AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following paragraph:

-- Referring now to **FIG. 3**, a flow diagram of a computer-implemented method of configuring a circle between a first and second affiliated entity, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, is shown. The method of the present embodiment may be realized as a series of instructions (e.g., code) and information (e.g., data) that reside on a computer-readable medium, such as computer memory, and are executed and manipulated by a processor to implement the process of configuring a circle of trust. As depicted in **FIG. 3**, the method comprises receiving a certificate of the first affiliated entity by a second affiliated entity at step **310**. The certificate of the first affiliated entity is stored in a trusted partner list ~~accessable~~ accessible to the second affiliated entity, at step **330**. The method further comprises receiving a certificate of the second affiliated entity by the first affiliated entity, at step **340**. The certificate of the second affiliated entity is stored in a trusted partner list ~~accessable~~ accessible to the first affiliated entity, at step **360**. --

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following paragraph:

-- In another embodiment of the present invention, the method comprises steps **310, 330, 340, and 360** of the above-described embodiment. The method further comprises receiving a network address of the first affiliated entity, at step **320**. The network

address of the first affiliated entity is stored in the trusted partner list ~~accessable~~ accessible to the second affiliated entity by the first affiliated entity, at step **350**. The network address of the second affiliated entity is stored in the trusted partner list ~~accessable~~ accessible to the first affiliated entity, at step **360**. --

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following paragraph:

-- In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the method comprises receiving a network address of the first affiliated entity by a third affiliated entity. The network address of the first affiliated entity is stored in a trusted partner list ~~accessable~~ accessible to the third affiliated entity. The method further comprises receiving a network address of the third affiliated entity by the first affiliated entity. The network address of the third affiliated entity is stored in a trusted partner list ~~accessable~~ accessible to the first affiliated entity. --

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following paragraph:

-- Referring now to FIG. 4, an exemplary trusted partner list, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, is shown. The trusted partner list **400** comprises a plurality of records **410**. In one implementation, each record **410** comprises an identifier of the particular trusted entity **420** and a certificate corresponding to the particular trusted entity **430**. In another implementation, each record **410** comprises an identifier of the particular trusted entity **420** and a network address (e.g., an internet protocol (IP) address) **440**. In yet another implementation, each record **410** comprises an identifier of

the particular trusted entity **420**, a certificate corresponding to the particular trusted entity **430**, and a network address **440** corresponding to the particular trusted entity. For example, the trusted partner list for ~~Serve~~ Server A may comprise identifiers for servers B and C, certificates of B and C, and network address of B and C, respectively. --